

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 M-03 A-01 OPR-02 SY-10 OC-06 CCO-00

AID-20 PC-15 CU-04 RSR-01 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01

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O R 101607Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4838

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

CINCSO

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 2106

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, UY

SUBJECT: FIRST MAJOR VIOLENCE OCCURS

CINCSO FOR POLAD

REF: MONTEVIDEO 2101

1. ANTI-ADMINISTRATION STREET DEMONSTRATION CALLED FOR 5:00 P.M. JULY 9 ERUPTED INTO FIRST MAJOR VIOLENCE BETWEEN OPPONENTS OF GOVERNMENT AND POLICE/MILITARY FORCES. INFORMATION AVAILABLE AS TO THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF INJURIES AND ARRESTS RESULTING FROM YESTERDAY'S DEMONSTRATION REMAINS CONFUSED. EYE WITNESS REPORTS, HOWEVER, INDICATE THAT LARGE NUMBER OF DEMONSTRATORS, MOSTLY SECONDARY AND UNIVERSITY-AGE STUDENTS, WERE ARRESTED. THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY NEWSPAPER "EL POPULAR", ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE, WAS
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RAIDED IN EFFORT TO ARREST DEMONSTRATORS WHO HAD TAKEN RE-

FUGE THERE. EYEWITNESSES ALSO REPORT THAT WHILE THERE WAS SOME EXCHANGE OF SHOTS, EFFORTS BY SECURITY FORCES TO BREAK UP DEMONSTRATIONS LARGELY LIMITED TO USE OF TEARGAS AND CLUBS. POLICE REPORTS INDICATE THAT TWO POLICEMEN WERE INJURED, ONE SERIOUSLY, AND TWO INJURED BY-STANDERS WERE TAKEN BY POLICE AUTHORITIES TO A HOSPITAL.

2. NO LOCAL NEWSPAPERS APPEARED TODAY (JULY 10).

3. ANTI-ADMINISTRATION FORCES CALLED FOR RENEWAL OF GENERAL STRIKE EFFORT TODAY (JULY 10) AS REPLY TO YESTERDAY'S VIOLENCE. NEVERTHELESS, PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS FUNCTIONING AS OF EARLY THIS MORNING.

4. ARMED FORCES COMMANDERS-IN-CHIEF ISSUED COMMUNIQUE YESTERDAY EVENING REAFFIRMING THEIR LOYALTY TO PRESIDENT BORDABERRY. COMMANDERS ALSO RESTATED THEIR ADHERENCE TO COMMUNIQUE 4 AND 7 OF LAST FEBRUARY, AND REPEATED THEIR INTENTION TO SERVE THE NATION AND NOT TO ACT AS AN "ARMED HAND OF ANY GROUP".

5. USUALLY WELL-INFORMED NEWSCASTER REPORTED LAST NIGHT THE FORMATION OF JK "MEDIATION COMMITTEE" COMPOSED OF ARMANDO MALET (FORMER MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH CURRENT MILITARY HIERARCHY), RAMON VALDES COSTA (RESPECTED LAWYER, PROFESSOR AND POLITICAL INDEPENDENT) AND ADOLFO GELSI BIDARD (UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR ASSOCIATED WITH THE LEFTIST CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY). GELSI REPORTEDLY NEGOTIATED LATE LAST EVENING MILITARY WITHDRAWAL FROM UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS. THE COMMISSION REPORTEDLY HOPES TO NEGOTIATE SOME UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE MILITARY, POLITICIANS AND PRESIDENT BORDABERRY BASED ON AN AUGMENTED POLITICAL AUTHORITY FOR THE TO-BE-ESTABLISHED COUNCIL OF STATE.

6. COMMENT: YESTERDAY'S VIOLENCE IN PART CONSEQUENCES OF LAST DITCH EFFORT BY ANTI-ADMINISTRATION FORCES TO INFUSE NEW VIGOR INTO THE WANING STRIKE. BUT VIOLENCE ALSO SUGGESTIVE OF GULF BETWEEN EXECUTIVE/MILITARY AMR OPPONENTS, A GULF WHICH REPORTED "MEDIATION COMMISSION" WILL FIND HARD TO BRIDGE.
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